



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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"I have not yet begun to fight!"



15TH MEU(SOC) MARINES TRAIN WITH KUWAITI ARMY

Story by Cpl. William Hawkins

Marines of B Co., Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit/Special Operations Capable (MEU/SOC), recently spent several days training with Kuwaiti soldiers sharing tactics and cultures as part of Exercise Eager Mace 2000 in the Kuwaiti desert.

The "Peacemakers" of 1st Co., 5th Bn., 6th Brigade, Kuwaiti mechanized infantry, commanded by 1st Lt. Abdullah Al-Enezi, said the joint training left the Kuwaitis with a favorable impression of the Marines.

The training allowed the Kuwaitis to achieve their main goal of acquiring as much knowledge as possible during their few days with the Marines, Al-Enezi said.

Bravo Co., comprised of three rifle platoons, a weapons platoon and an engineer squad, arrived at the battlefield compliments of an Amphibious Assault Vehicle attachment. The M1A1 Main Battle tanks attached to the company help make it a formidable package capable of handling the many MEU/SOC missions they have trained for during Eager Mace.

During this exercise B Co. assaulted the self-proclaimed defensive forces of the Kuwaiti Army. The training allowed the Peacemakers to polish their defensive tactics and become familiar with the Marines methods of training.

A live-fire exhibition April 13, complete with line charges and machine guns, gave the Marines a chance to practice their proficiencies and illustrate to the Kuwaitis how powerful a well-planned attack can be.

"I want to learn everything," said Al-Enezi. "I want to train the right way and to learn from our mistakes."

The main Marine objective of the training was to learn how the

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Lt. Gen. Bruce B. Knutson, Commanding General, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force and Col. Richard C. Zilmer, Commanding Officer, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit/Special Operations Capable (MEU/SOC), pinned Colonel collar devices on Lt. Col. Harmon A. Stockwell, 15th MEU/SOC Executive Officer, in a promotion ceremony held on Monday. (Photo by Cpl. William Hawkins.)

UNIONS DENY TRADE STAND IS PROTECTIONIST

By Steven Greenhouse

The American labor movement, while waging its biggest battle ever against trade liberalization, is trying to fend off charges from many economists, business executives and members of Congress that it has re-embraced protectionism. Many critics assert that labor's across-the-board fight against trade expansion measures, including the China and Africa trade bills, represents a crass effort to protect U.S. jobs.

With its power magnified in a campaign year, the AFL-CIO has been by far the most powerful voice against the China bill, helping sway scores of Democrats, including Dick Gephardt, the House Democratic leader, to oppose it. Lawmakers say that, largely because of labor's opposition, the vote in the House is too close to call.

The China trade bill is hardly the only trade battle labor is waging. In Seattle, unions sent

more than 30,000 people into the streets to persuade World Trade Organization ministers not to initiate a new round of talks aimed at removing trade barriers.

In addition, labor has blocked Congress' efforts to make it easier for the administration to negotiate extending the North American Free Trade Agreement to other countries. Nowadays, union leaders assert that they are open to trade expansion measures so long as those measures include core worker protections, like the right to form labor unions and a ban on child labor.

STOCK MARKET

DOW	10,906.10	UP	62.05
NASDAQ	3,482.48	DOWN	161.40
S&P 500	1,429.86	DOWN	4.68
NYSE	642.18	UP	2.77

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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WEDNESDAY'S SITE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1030 DHARMA & GREG

1100 OCTOBER SKY

1630 ER

1730 JEOPARDY

1800 BEVERLY HILLS 90210

1900 MELROSE PLACE

2000 LETTERS FROM A KILLER

2200 CON AIR

CHANNEL 6

1030 JUST SHOOT ME

1100 YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

1630 HOUSE ARREST

1820 VARSITY BLUES

2020 DUECE BIGALOW

2200 INVENTING THE ABBOTTS

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

HEROIN CARRIES AIDS TO REGION OF SIBERIA

By Michael Wines

Thirteen months ago, a young man from this city's rough-and-tumble north side appeared at a government hospital complaining of a head wound suffered in a family fight. A blood work-up soon showed that it was the least of his problems: he was also infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

That was unusual. In the entire Irkutsk region of Siberia, officials had recorded fewer than 200 HIV infections since 1991. But when a second north-side man tested positive for HIV a few days later, the officials decided to investigate.

What they found is still resounding through Irkutsk, a run-down river town of 650,000 just north of Mongolia. The two men both attended a training institute for river transport workers. Further tests uncovered six more HIV cases among their classmates. All eight shared another deadly trait: they were addicted to heroin, which first appeared in the city only six or seven months earlier.

Today, a region that hardly heard of AIDS a year ago, has recorded 5,000 new cases of HIV infections and registered more than 8,500 drug addicts. Those are the official statistics. The true figures could be as much as 10 times as great, officials say. Heroin has fueled a sharp rise in drug use and encouraged the needle sharing that helps to spread AIDS.

The police say the heroin trade is ballooning despite their best efforts to stop it. The drug comes by truck from Afghanistan and Tajikistan and is distributed throughout Siberia from the south-

ern Russian city of Novosibirsk.

Beneath the police's frustration runs a subtle but pointed undercurrent: This region never had such problems when the Soviet Union existed. Law-enforcement officials unanimously blame the drug problem on the opening of Soviet borders and the loosening of government control over ordinary people.

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Kuwaitis work in case the Leathernecks ever have to work beside them, said Capt. Bruce Graler, 30, Vista, Calif., B Co. commander. They also provided the Kuwaitis with suggestions for improving their defensive forces.

"I have been impressed with the company commander and executive officer," said Graler. "They really want to learn from us."

Al-Enezi said his soldiers would apply to their regimen all they learned here.

It wasn't all business, though. The Kuwaitis welcomed the Marines to their camp to learn about their customs and culture. When the work for the day is done, said Al-Enezi, the soldiers relax and become as close as family.

"What my Marines enjoyed the most was the time they had after the training to mingle with the Kuwaitis," said Graler. "They were really enthusiastic to learn about their culture."

"The message I want to send comes from the basic soldier to the minister of defense," said Al-Enezi. "We thank you for your concern of this country, for aiding this country and defending it even though it is not yours."

COMMAND DAPA

Have you Ever Noticed.. Smokers Drink and Drinkers Smoke

Between 80 and 95 percent of alcoholics smoke cigarettes, a rate that is three times higher than the population as a whole. Drinking influences smoking, more than smoking influences drinking. Nevertheless, smokers are 1.32 times as likely to consume alcohol as are non-smokers.

Why are Alcohol and Tobacco used together?

The two most common reasons given for the concurrent use of alcohol and tobacco are:

Either drug may increase the desired effects of the other and either may decrease the toxic or unpleasant effects of the other. What is the Risk of Cancer from Alcohol and Tobacco?

Smoking and excessive alcohol use are risk factors for heart and lung disease and for some cancer forms. The risk of mouth, throat, or esophagus cancer for the smoking drinker is more than the sum of the risk posed by the drugs individually.

Compared with nonsmoking non-smokers, the approximate relative risks for mouth and throat cancer are 7 times greater for tobacco users, 6 times greater for drinkers, and 38 times greater for those who use both. WOW!

SPORTS

BASEBALL SCORES:

MINNESOTA	7	N.Y. YANKEES	3
CHI. WHITE SOX	8	BALTIMORE	2
TEXAS	5	BOSTON	4
TORONTO	3	OAKLAND	2
ANAHEIM	10	DETROIT	4
CLEVELAND	6	SEATTLE	0
N.Y. METS	1	LOS ANGELES	0
FLORIDA	3	PHILADELPHIA	1

BASKETBALL SCORES:

CHARLOTTE	108	PHILADELPHIA	98
UTAH	101	SEATTLE	87

HOCKEY SCORE:

TOTONTO	4	OTTAWA	2
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A Kuwaiti soldier gives the "thumbs-up" sign as he and others in his unit practice maneuvers onboard Combat Rubber Reconnaissance Crafts with Marines of A Co., Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit/Special Operations Capable (MEU/SOC), April 17 at Falaka Island, Kuwait, as part of Exercise Eager Mace 2000. The Marines spent the day familiarizing the commandos with the Combat Rubber Reconnaissance Crafts and practicing Military Operations on Urban Terrain tactics later that night. The 15th MEU/SOC is currently deployed to the Arabian Gulf aboard ships of the USS BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Ready Group. (Official Marine Corps photo by Cpl. William Hawkins.)